

Monroe County Early Intervention Program

Providers in Partnership (PIP) Meeting

August 15, 2012

Announcements/Sharing

CARD – Rachel Prince (office manager) has left to take a position as a social worker. Amanda Falzone will be assuming her position and her title will be Operations Manager.

CP Rochester – Leslie Weigel-Medwetsay (Preschool teacher) has left and Sue Fisher has taken the position of the pre-school classroom teacher, Susan Weinberg will be the only special education EI teacher for the EI groups.

CCHS – is opening up their 4th preschool classroom site which is located at the former St. James in East Irondequoit. Their other 3 sites are located in Fairport, Gates, and Webster. They have also added a new PT - Stacey Hyde, who will be providing services in classroom and some community based services.

CAFL - Lynn Steen worth will be starting as a service coordinator at CAFL as of 9/4 and will be bringing 45 cases with her. Desere Lester will be starting at Bright Start

SBS – Has a new OT starting - Alyssa Flores (but she does not speak Spanish)

SSLC – Their walk went well.

Ann Marie - corrected some misinformation, the OCTOBER PIP meeting will be the one that will be blended with meeting with CPSE chairs – NOT the September meeting.

- Provider Update:
- Re: the Availability Grid – Leisa Sabernick – will take over responsibility of maintaining Grid. Her Email address is at bottom of Important Numbers on the PIP agenda
- The Providers Update and Availability Prize goes to BRIGHT START - YEAH!!!
- Provider update – Liz Baltus-Hebert accepted a position at Nazareth. She will be doing some consultant work but will no longer be an independent
- County has not made a decision regarding an Ongoing Service Coordination agency. This is somewhat dependent on two factors, restructuring at the county with the departure of Barb, and what the numbers may look like after transition.

Review of Minutes & Follow up on Action Items

No corrections to the minutes.

ACTION ITEMS

Kinney - Further discussion regarding therapists' electronic signatures in Kinney. Ann Marie will follow up with Karen at Kinney.

EI AGENDA

ALL COUNTY CONFERENCE CALL

NYEIS

- Recognized that the system is really slow, working on developing a more comprehensive and strategic approach to enhance its performance and stability. 1.6.1 Version released. The manual has not been updated to reflect this change. But the CMA website does post the release notes that accompany each new version of NYEIS. The

release notes highlight the relevant changes that are part of the new release. The CMA website in general has some very helpful information on it.

- Priority continues to be securing a state fiscal agent to assume fiscal management of the program. Counties did receive an email that released a January 1st date vs. April 1st date; apparently the state has the ability to implement this as of January 1st. Feedback from Brad Hutton stated it may be prudent for counties to plan on April 1st. However since historically dates have been given and postponed, and given the lack of a concrete plan at this time, may be later rather than sooner. State does not have a lot of specific information for anyone.
- At this time the plan is for the state fiscal agent to assume administration of both the KIDS and NYEIS databases.
- Also state said that they are in a “black out period” for the fiscal agent as they have defined the scope, although they have not yet published the RFP. They did ask for examples from counties for those that contract with a fiscal agent so that they can get a sense of the lingo.

Provider Info

- 3 phases – Preparation Phase – verifying info on the provider
- did not say a lot about the transition period
- Some questions re: full implementation i.e., registry checks – who is going to do those? How is it going to work if providers are under one contract as of 3/31 and then under a different contract as of 4/1? They did state that municipalities can still contract with providers until the state assumes this responsibility.
- Local Legislators are 1 source for advocacy for providers. However, once the state implements these reforms, local legislators may not be as helpful as representatives at the state level. May be good to start developing or continue cultivating those relationships now.
- Corporate Compliance (Corporate Practice Waiver). This applies to agencies only, not to Independent Providers. For any questions regarding whether or not your agency has to complete this application, per the email, please contact State Ed as it depends on the business designation of your agency. Application deadline is November 26th for Corporate Practice Waiver
- ETIN (to bill electronically) a question was asked if they would need to be redone but they did not know the answer to that as of yet.

Service Coordination Rate Status

- State is still working on the package to reflect the new billing guidelines.

SED monitoring of EI Agencies

County received a letter regarding NYSED reviews and EI agencies. At one time EI agencies were also monitored by NYSED. However, there are only approximately 93 of these agencies left and none are contracted with Monroe County, so this info (letter) does not apply to any agency providers in Monroe County.

Fiscal reports – (on NYEIS)

Still a high priority for the state. They continue to test the validity of the data in the NYEIS datamart.

Family Ice Cream Social Info

Debbie provided an update on the Family Ice Cream Social on behalf of the LEICC’s Parent Involvement Committee. The event flyers have been distributed to OSC’s who are handing them out and are also being distributed with the initial IFSP packet. Families are to RSVP to Noreen Goodman. The committee is looking for provider volunteers to provide some fun activities. There is a volunteer form that can be completed if you are interested and fax/email or call Debbie with the information.

COMMUNITY INFORMATION FORUM

Explained the proposed format for this year. It will include 3 families (EI, PSE, post PSE/school age) providing a brief summary of the impact of EI on their child and family. This year 3 providers will also provide a brief summary of the impact of the NYSDOH budget and regulatory changes on their programs. LEICC will mail out invitations and committee members will make follow up phone calls to the target audience members (Senators, Assembly members) to encourage their presence.

Supplemental Evaluations- Discussion regarding purpose of supplemental evaluations and adding a service to a child's IFSP.

- Issue raised- when do we add in services? There was discussion regarding this and the consensus of the present providers was that a child had to be showing a delay of 25% or 1.5 SD before you could start up a service. The EIOD and SC present disagreed with this and indicated that you could add in a service without having that level of delay. Cindy will get clarification from the state on this. (*****see clarification obtained from the state at end of minutes*****)
- Another point brought up was confirming that a PT/OT definitely needs a script even if it is for 2 or 3 sessions. They do not need a script for a supplemental evaluation in Early Intervention.
- Consults vs. Supplemental Evaluations- Some providers feel that Consults are provided with the expectation that they are the evaluation. Providers agree that if the child needs an eval, then an eval should be arranged vs. a consultation. The purpose of consults was clarified.
- Issue of individual facility based visits being provided during group- NYSDOH BEI's position is that individual facility based visits provided within group developmental intervention must be provided in 30 minute increments. Discussion regarding the challenges that this poses for providers since infants and toddlers learn differently than preschoolers and move around their environment in a different way than preschoolers.

PRESCHOOL AGENDA

Random Moment in Time Study (RMTS)

County received clarification that preschool providers are not being included in the RMTS. The county will still need to complete a cost report for the RMTS and has other related tasks to complete according to timelines PCG provided.

MEDICAID and EDUCATION TRAINING. The online link for the Webinar was down today. This must be completed by September 30th. (This was extended from 9/1)

Discussion regarding joint meeting with Providers and CPSE Chairs scheduled for 10/15/12

- It was suggested that the providers develop and prioritize goals, so that time is used most efficiently and so the that both providers and chairs feel that we are collectively moving forward and making progress with regards to these issues.
- Suggestions were as follows:
- To identify 1-3 reasonable, measurable goals for the meeting.
- Issue- Providers fear reprisal from CPSE Chairs and fear getting "penalized" by chairs if they don't agree to enter certain info into IEP Direct. Providers would like to know what to do in these situations? Should they be communicating these experiences and concerns directly to NYSED? What is the appropriate channel of communication to follow in these situations?
- Issue- Timely submission of STACs and accompanying paperwork to the county is problematic for several districts and impacts provider's getting paid in a timely manner. Providers provide the service and yet, often, they have to wait months and months for payment.
- Issue- Providers do not always get finalized IEP's and providers spend hours trying to track down frequencies of services.
- Issue- CPSE Chairs don't always appear to know or understand the regs. Various interpretations and things are implemented differently as a result.
- Issue- Communication between chairs' need to improve to achieve more consistency across the board.

- A provider suggested that if communicating with the CPSE Chair doesn't work, then the provider can consider contacting the PPS Director of the district.
- Concern was expressed about some CPSE Chairs communicating unprofessionally during meetings in terms of their interactions with providers who are present at the meeting. E.g., talking about what they don't like about reports that a provider submitted during the meeting; chastising the provider for not entering certain info into IEP Direct even though the agency communicated to the district what they agreed to enter and did not agree to enter into IEP Direct. Concern that "customer service" is decreasing due to everyone being overwhelmed and over worked.
- RCN subcontracts with different agencies i.e., for 3-5 evaluations. Does RCN still need a release of information to talk with sub contract agency? Ann Marie recommended RCN contact NYSED SEQA with this question. Also Nancy raised question as to whether or not you need to obtain consent from a parent to speak with Dr's office for each script that you need to get. Consensus was DO NOT need to do this.
- Providers have requested NYSED presence at the joint provider/CPSE Chair meeting as it presents an opportunity for open dialogue and for NYSED SEQA to clarify regulations.
- Lisa Pedersen, Beth Grier-Leva and Ann Marie Stephan meeting to discuss the agenda for this meeting based on feedback from providers and chairs.

NEXT MEETING:

2 – 4 p.m.

September 19th

Stepping Stones Learning Center

41 Colebrook Drive, Rochester, NY 14617

****The following is an excerpt cut and pasted from email received from NYSDOH BEI regarding the topic of supplemental evaluations and adding a "start up" service for children already eligible for the EI Program.

The evaluation process, including supplemental evaluations, is not meant to "qualify" a child or family for a particular service but rather to inform the Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) team so that it can discuss and make an informed decision as to the appropriate services for the child/family once eligibility for the program is established. Once a child has been determined eligible for the Early Intervention Program (EIP), they do not need to meet a certain "threshold" of delay (such as a 1.5 SD delay in the physical domain) in order to receive an EIP service that will address an identified area of concern. The information from the physical therapy (PT) supplemental evaluation (if one was completed) would be used, along with all other available information, including parental concerns, provider report, and professional judgment, so that the IFSP team can determine what services are appropriate and best meet the child and family's needs. This should be a team discussion and if the parent and EIO/D cannot reach an agreement on the IFSP, the parent should be informed of and may utilize their due process rights.

Additionally, if the IFSP team decides that there is enough information available to identify related outcomes and add PT services without the need to complete a PT supplemental evaluation, this can be done. If the EIO/D or any member of the IFSP team feels that more information is necessary to ensure that the child's and family's needs are met, or to provide additional information related to the diagnosis, then the EIO/D can authorize a supplemental evaluation.